

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 SWF-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SS-20

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R 030636Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9230

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RO

SUBJECT: CCC CREDITS - CURRENT ROMANIAN CEREALS SITUATION

REF: A) BUCHAREST 2492; B) BUCHAREST 2666 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH FIRST DETAILED ESTIMATES OF ROMANIAN 1974 CEREALS PRODUCTION NOT YET AVAILABLE FROM GOR OFFICIALS, REVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION INDICATES THAT WHEAT AND CORN CROPS WILL BE LESS THAN 1973 HARVEST (5.5 MILLION METRIC TONS AND 7.2 MILLION METRIC TONS RESPECTIVELY). DISCUSSION WITH GOR AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS AND FIELD OBSERVATIONS GIVE PESSIMISTIC PICTURE OF PROSPECTS FOR ROMANIA'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT GRAIN CROPS DUE PRIMARILY TO PREVIOUS DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND UNUSUALLY COOL SPRING WEATHER.

2. WHEAT FIELDS IN EASTERN PARTS OF ROMANIA HAVE BEEN MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND HAVE COME THROUGH THE WINTER IN POOR CONDITION WITH RETARDED AND UNEVEN GROWTH OVER MOST OF THE EASTERN REGION. IN ADDITION, UNUSUALLY COOL WEATHER HASSWLAYED MATURING AND, ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, WHEAT HARVEST WILL BE DELAYED BY ABOUT TWO WEEKS. WHEAT YIELDS WILL BE DOWN CONSIDERABLY IN THE EASTERN REGIONS, AND EVEN THE AVERAGE YIELD REPORTEDLY MAY NOT REACH LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE

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REPLACEMENT OF THE SOVIET BEZOSTAYA VARIETY WITH THE HIGHER YIELD-

ING CAUCAS AND AURORA VARIETIES HAS PROCEEDED TO THE POINT WHERE THIS YEAR'S CROP WILL BE COMPOSED OF ONLY ABOUT 50 PERCENT TO 60 PERCENT BEZOSTAYA. COOL WEATHER ALSO DELAYED BARLEY HARVEST, IN ROMANIA NORMALLY COMPLETED BEFORE FIRST OF JULY; CROP IS STILL NOT IN AND SOME FIELDS HAVE NOT YET RIPENED.

3. CORN FIELDS IN GENERAL SHOW EFFECTS OF DROUGHT AND COOL SPRING WEATHER WITH STUNTED AND UNEVEN GROWTH. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS ARE HOPING FOR ADDITIONAL RAIN AND WARMER WEATHER TO RECOVER SOME OF THE CURRENT CROP AND FOR A LATE AUTUMN SO THAT SECOND CORN CROP WILL RIPEN ENOUGH TO PROVIDE GOOD SILAGE PRODUCTION. SECOND CORN CROP, HOWEVER, NORMALLY PLANTED AFTER WHEAT, WILL BE DELAYED BY LATE WHEAT HARVEST; ROMANIAN'S PLAN TO MAKE USE OF FAST HYBRID SEED DEVELOPED AT FUNDULEA SEED RESEARCH CENTER TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM SILAGE HARVEST THIS FALL.
BARNES

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